

# MIDWEST CLIMATE SUMMIT

## SUMMARY 2024

**Thank you to all who attended the 2024 Midwest Climate Summit!**

We had a great time in Indianapolis, IN from April 3-5.

### SUMMIT SUMMARY

- 17 States Represented
- 280 Total In-Person Participants
- 25 Virtual Participants
- 45 Student Participants
- 20 On-Site Workshops
- 6 Mobile Workshops



Photo Credits John Zokovitch & Mackenzie Siren

**Thank you to our event host!**



ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE  
INSTITUTE

### ATTENDEE FEEDBACK

**100%** of closing-survey respondents would recommend the event to others

**“Amazing guest speakers”**

Keynote speaker was **“very inspirational”**

Thursday reception’s programming was **“perfection”**

Closing session performance **“beautiful, well executed, and full of talent”**

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- In this time of unprecedented funding for climate projects, more capacity is needed in the region to leverage these funds to advance climate goals
- Climate communications in the Midwest require tapping into multiple channels, matching messaging to people’s lived experiences, and countering misinformation
- Equitable solutions don’t happen without following the lead of frontline communities and diverse voices
- Engaging with business leaders is key to expanding what’s possible to reduce emissions and build resiliency
- Young people need to be at the table as we design and implement solutions

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



The Midwest Climate Summit brought together climate leaders across sectors to spark conversation and collaboration to expand knowledge, accelerate climate action, and catalyze new partnerships. The Midwest Climate Collaborative (MCC), a group of more than 70 members working in academic, government, industry, and non-profit sectors, hosted the Summit, in which individuals across the 12 Midwestern states joined together to share, learn, and expand the conversation around work in agriculture, energy, sustainability, and more.

Leah Thomas, celebrated environmentalist and author, kicked off the summit as our keynote speaker. She discussed her midwestern upbringing and experience in coining the term, and title of her book, “Intersectional Environmentalist.” Attendees engaged in a large variety of workshops, ranging from discussion of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund announcement to wetland restoration. Then, on the 5th, attendees took to the greater Indianapolis area in mobile workshops to experience local sustainability efforts. Attendees enjoyed React Theatre’s student-written show, *Dreamland*, a work about eco-anxiety and enduring hope before being evacuated by a literal and figurative fire alarm, sending everyone back to their communities for future collaboration.

## 2024 SUMMIT WORKSHOPS

- Responding to Heat Inside and Out, From Building Performance to Tree Canopy
- How to Talk about Climate: Using Art and Storytelling to Move Communities toward Action
- No Transition Without Transmission: How Grid Issues Impact Clean Energy Goals
- Strategic Data-Driven Communication for Local Audiences
- Harvesting Prosperity: How communities of all sizes can access technical assistance to build capacity and put federal funds to work reducing emissions and building resiliency
- Community Voices in Energy: Energy Justice Intervenors
- Educating for Environmental Change
- Traditional knowledges, Climate change, and Health: Ethical Considerations for Climate Adaptation Projects with Indigenous Communities
- Growing Green Business Connections
- Financing the Clean Energy Transition
- Building Climate-Informed Outreach and Education: Collaborative Approaches in Midwest Agriculture
- Amplifying Climate Stories: A Communication Workshop
- Meaningful Equity in Building Decarbonization
- Climate and Community: Harnessing the Power of the Grassroots Ecosystem to Accelerate Climate Action
- Putting the Pieces Together: The Efficacy of Local Government Collaboration In Purple States
- Law and Policy to Support Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Health Equity
- Partnership-driven science in a changing world: An introduction to MCC’s Midwest Climate Research Agenda and the USGS Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center
- Midwestern Hydrogen Hubs: Short, Medium, and Long-Term Development
- Wetlands Protection and Restoration Policies
- Preparing to Crowdfund Your Climate Project

## 2024 MOBILE WORKSHOPS

- E-waste Recycling
- Sustainability at the Speedway: Racing toward Zero
- Take a Nature Break with Earth Charter Indiana
- Taking Sustainability to New Heights
- Exploring Indy’s Cultural Trail on Two Wheels
- Campus Conversations for Community Collaboration



Photo Credits (top to bottom): Mo Reynolds, John Zokovitch, and Logan Waddle

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JOIN US NEXT YEAR!

Madison, WI

April 30 - May 2, 2025